

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0674

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: FOURTH ROUND OF GREEK-TURKISH FIR TALKS

1. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AFFAIRS HALIL DAG BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 26 ON
OUTCOME OF FOURTH ROUND OF TURKISH-GREEK AEGEAN AIR SPACE
NEGOTIATIONS. DAG, IN GIVING HIS PRESENTATION, SAID THAT
CHARACTERIZATION OF THE TALKS BY CHIEF TURKISH DELEGATE YUKSEL
SOYLEMEZ AS "INCONCLUSIVE" WAS A EUPHEMISM FOR "UNSUCCESSFUL."
DAG SAID THE TALKS OPENED WITH THE TURKISH DELEGATION PRESENTING
A COUNTER-DRAFT OF A PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE GREEK DELEGATION
DURING THE LAST ROUND IN ISTANBUL. THE GREEK PROPOSAL HAD
INITIALLY PROVIDED THAT ANY FORMATION OF FOUR OR MORE GREEK AIR-
CRAFT LEAVING GREEK AIR SPACE AND FLYING OUT OVER THE AEGEAN
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TOWARD TURKEY WOULD REQUIRE GREEK AIR FORCE NOTIFICATION TO THE

TURKISH AIR FORCE BY DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE. FURTHER, ANY FORMATION OF FOUR OR MORE GREEK AIRCRAFT APPROACHING WITHIN 25 MILES OF THE TURKISH COAST WOULD TURN ON THEIR IFF DEVICE.

2. DAG SAID THAT THE FIRST ACT OF THE GREEK DELEGATION WHEN THE TALKS OPENED IN ATHENS WAS TO WITHDRAW THIS PROPOSAL FROM THE TABLE. THE GREEK DELEGATION REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT MADE NO PROVISION FOR RECIPROCITY. THE TURKISH DELEGATION, WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT, WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATION, THE GREEK PROPOSAL, WAS DISTRESSED BY THE GOG DECISION. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOT DELEGATION, DESIROUS OF MAKING PROGRESS DURING THIS ROUND OF TALKS, MADE A COUNTER-PROPOSAL BASED ON THE GREEK PROPOSAL BUT INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR RECIPROCITY. THIS PROPOSAL PROVIDED THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD NOTIFY THE OTHER IN THE EVENT OF A FLIGHT OF FOUR OR MORE AIRCRAFT LEAVING ITS AIR SPACE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OTHER COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO DAG THE GREEK DELEGATION REFUSED TO CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL.

3. THE GREEK DELEGATION THEN PLACED ON THE TABLE, ACCORDING TO DAG, A NEW PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THAT A FLIGHT OF FOUR OR MORE AIRCRAFT FROM EITHER NATION FLYING WITHIN 25 MILES OF THE FIR WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF NOTIFICATION TO THE OTHER AIR FORCE. DAG SAID THAT DESPITE THE "PATENT UNACCEPTABILITY" OF THIS PROPOSAL (THEORETICALLY IT WOULD REQUIRE ANY GROUP OF FOUR OR MORE TURKISH AIRCRAFT FLYING FROM ISTANBUL TO IZMIR TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE OF THAT FLIGHT), THE TURKISH DELEGATION WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT IT AS THE BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN HAVE THE TALKS COLLAPSE. AFTER STUDYING THE PROPOSAL THE TURKS MADE A SECOND COUNTER-PROPOSAL. THE TURKS ACCEPTED THE REQUIREMENT FOR RECIPROCAL NOTIFICATION WITHIN 25 MILES OF THE FIR UNDER TWO CONDITIONS: (A) TURKISH AIRCRAFT NOT INTENDING TO CROSS THE FIR WOULD NOT BE REPORTED; (B) THE GOG WOULD AGREE TO LIMIT THE AIR SPACE IT CLAIMED FOR ITS AEGEAN ISLANDS TO SIX NAUTICAL MILES. ONCE AGAIN, ACCORDING TO DAG, THE GREEK DELEGATION REJECTED THE TURKISH PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND, AND THE TALKS CONCLUDED WITH NOT EVEN AN AGREED DATE FOR A FIFTH ROUND.

4. COMMENT: TURKISH VERSION OF ROUND FOUR DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO GREEK VERSION. WE SUSPECT NEITHER IS ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCURATE RECORD OF WHAT OCCURRED, AND BOTH ARE SELF-SERVING. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL GOT WAS ACTUALLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT REAFFIRMATION OF FIR AS THE BASE LINE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY ITS AGREEMENT TO DO SO WAS COUPLED WITH A CONDITION DESIGNED TO EVOKE A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THE GOG, I.E., AEGEAN ISLAND AIR SPACE LIMIT OF SIX NAUTICAL MILES. REGARDLESS, TALKS NOW SEEM TO HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE, AND THE TURKS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BLAME

THE GREEKS FOR THAT.
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